

Justice Admits Bugging Two Hoffa Defendants

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The Justice Department confessed to the Supreme Court Monday that someone in the jury-tampering case of former Teamster president James R. Hoffa had been overheard over a secret Government electronic "bug."

In a memorandum to the Court, Solicitor General Erwin N. Griswold gave a few details of the bugging but said the Government can prove that Hoffa's eight-year prison sentence should remain undisturbed.

Details can be aired in a lower Federal court if Hoffa and two co-defendants seek a hearing on the basis of the disclosure, Griswold said.

Meanwhile, Griswold suggested, the Court should deny Hoffa's fourth and latest peti-

tion seeking a new trial. Joining Hoffa in the petition are former Detroit Teamster business agent Larry Campbell and Campbell's uncle, Thomas E. Parks of Nashville.

Griswold said two of the petitions—he did not say which two—were parties to conversations monitored "during the course of electronic surveillances directed against others." He did not say when and where the Federal eavesdropping took place.

Hoffa's latest motion for a new trial, based on charges of Government bugging, was denied May 10 in Nashville's Federal court after Hoffa's lawyers unsuccessfully sought a postponement of their hearing. Griswold said the confessed bugging had nothing to do with the charges made by Hoffa and would have no effect on his conviction for trying to bribe a Chattanooga jury in 1962.